

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

Vol. 22, No. 52

TORONTO 2, CANADA

April 25th, 1931

"Well, it looks like Norma Shearer will win me again this year with 'Strangers May Kiss' I liked 'The Divorcee' but gosh this new picture by Ursula Parrott is even better. And Robert Montgomery becomes a full-fledged star because of his performance in it. Ho-hum, another year at the M-G-M Studios for me I like it here. There's a whole room full of trophies to keep me company!"



WONDER WHAT A PRIZE TROPHY THINKS ABOUT!

THE FACTS SO FAR and its just beginning:

PHILADELPHIA—Largest gross of year at Mastbaum!

KANSAS CITY—Breaking every record!

MEMPHIS—Beats any picture of past few years!

LOUISVILLE—Tremendous!

NASHVILLE—Opening biggest in history!

SYRACUSE—Beating the year's biggest!

HARRISBURG—Best business in months!

BALTIMORE—Biggest ever!

NEW YORK—Capitol records going!

PUBLISHED BY
CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY LIMITED
259 SPADINA AVENUE, TORONTO 2



"Good-bye Alfonso—
good luck on
your next
job!"



LEO remains KING OF THE MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY!

Zip goes the King of Spain! But there's one throne that's secure! That's Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer! We keep our people happy and prosperous with hits like:

NORMA SHEARER in STRANGERS MAY KISS
JOAN CRAWFORD in PAID and DANCE FOOLS DANCE
MIN AND BILL with Wallace BEERY, Marie DRESSLER
GRETA GARBO in ROMANCE and INSPIRATION
MARION DAVIES in IT'S A WISE CHILD
Marie DRESSLER, Polly MORAN in REDUCING

and the hit of the century **TRADER HORN!**



**Wear the crown of METRO-
GOLDWYN-MAYER
and Rest Easy!**

Canadian Moving Picture DIGEST

Established in 1915 for
Exhibitors

Subscription: \$5.00 yearly

Telephone: Trinity 1481

Cable: Ontocanada

Published by Canadian
Moving Picture Digest
Company, Limited

259 Spadina Ave. - Toronto

RAY LEWIS

Editor and Managing Director

Vol. 22, No. 52

TORONTO 2, CANADA

April 25th, 1931

"The Moral Gang Bunk"



IT DOES NOT take a Judge to pronounce a decision as to the effect of "gang" pictures upon the juvenile mind of twelve or eighteen to convince us that the Industry should curtail its "gang" presentations.

Nor does it mean anything to mothers of picture-going juveniles, twelve to eighteen, that some critics present the moral of a "gang" film, in the death, or imprisonment of "gangsters."

This age, in respect to its juveniles, is negative on Death. Death too is a thrill, an adventure, and as long as the "going" is good, this new generation of sceptics is satisfied to "sow its wild oats wilder," hoping that they will not be here for the reaping.

Exhibitors, producers and distributors, you, who have children, or who have friends who have children, get into conversation with these juveniles; and learn something about their reactions! It will be an education; and will also prove to you beyond the views of critics, or the opinions of a Judge, that the moral in most of the "Gang Films" is not a good alibi for their presentation.

Women should be able to pass a reasonable opinion on what they consider suitable entertainment at Motion Picture Theatres. Women have made an Industry out of Motion Pictures. Women make the success, or failure of a picture; and nine women out of ten will tell you that there are too many "gang" pictures; and too much effort, because of this multiplicity, to give the "gang" villainies a new villainous angle!

For every "Raffles" or "Within the Law," which is Entertainment, there are a dozen "gang" pictures which are furnishing "the rope to hang this Industry!"

Crook dramas can be interesting. They can be moreover innocuous. You will have an opportunity to sample just such a picture when the British and Dominion's release, "Plunder," which was presented in London at the Gala Performance for the visiting Prime Ministers, is distributed throughout Canada by Regal Films.

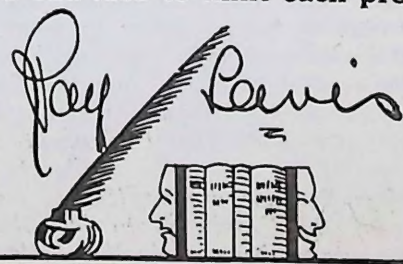
"Plunder" has a comedy-mystery-crook angle which makes it Real Entertainment; and it is handled in such a way as to contain a moral, without the necessity of having "the body riddled with shots!"

An intensely interesting picture with but one post mortem!

However, the disposition of this Industry is such that it only finds out things through "the pound of cure," the "ounce of prevention" policy is not among its numerous complexes.

If the Hays' organization has any power to give instructions, or its advice is considered worth its investment, it would not be a bad idea to limit each producer to two crook dramas in its schedule of production, which would not give the public more than twenty of such pictures during the year, less than two a month!

For once be convinced before being convicted!



**Adolph Zukor Does Not Commit Himself on Future Dividend Policy;
Profits Down**

RAY



RAY LEWIS

PRESENTS

AMONG the election promises, which The Right Hon. R. B. Bennett made; and which he, as Prime Minister of Canada, together with his Government have made every sincere effort to carry out, is the Investigation of Motion Picture conditions in Canada, in respect to an alleged foreign Combine being in control of the Film market here! It was no easy task to appoint a Commission to open an Investigation. Important Interests had to be offended, but the policy of "Canada First" above all Interests predominated and prevailed, and "all the King's 'orses and all the King's men" could not prevent this Government Investigation!

A great deal of the Economic unrest among workers is due to a feeling that the underprivileged cannot get justice, or their rights, unless there is a revolution, because the Moneyed Interests control the politics, which make the policies of a Government! But history has, in its cut pages, revealed Individualists born for just such Economic crises, and who save the morale of a Nation because of their invincible courage to govern justly!

IT IS our contention that a government is as good as the people who elect that government; and that to get the best out of a government is to give that government the best in patience, co-operation and support.

There are many, who are always "agin" all governments. You will find that this class is for continual change, for they have nothing to lose; and enjoy seeing others lose what they have!

When the question was mooted concerning the calling of a special session of Parliament to deal with the Unemployment Crisis in Canada, there were vociferous cries "Water-waste, Extravagance," and yet for six weeks the Opposition debated the Speech from the Throne in a veritable waste of words, with the result, the adoption of the Speech by a majority of 46, and the defeat of the two proposed amendments!

We, who are the public, looked on; and wondered at the "waste of time," which could have been conserved for more constructive service, especially at a period when all forces should forget party distinction and lose their selfish interests to place "Canada First."

Men who have sufficient mental timbre to sit in Parliament, taking hours to make what they must know were only "speeches," regardless of the needs of Canada, and the Empire! Of course, we are not Utopian to such a degree that we are not aware that Parliament is politics, and politics is a business similar to other Big Business, but we are sufficiently alive to the needs of this Dominion to feel that the "seven lean years" have made this nation lean

in various aspects; and that the "seven fat years" can only be developed when, at least, in the crisis of a nation, its people stop "Playing politics" and "Play the game."

SOME TIME ago we stated, that no government had with such a rapidity of action endeavored nobly and sincerely to stand upon the policies of its pre-election campaign! With July 28th, 1931, just three months away from the anniversary of our government, we view the work of our government with pride, with confidence; and a knowledge that our government will govern this nation "wisely and well," increasing those good works which have already been manifest.

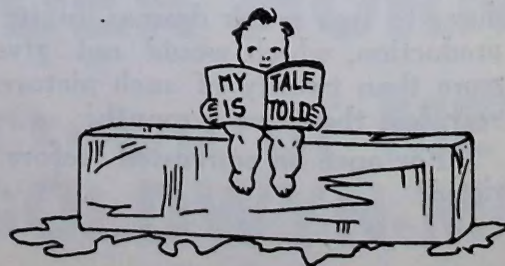
Those who had the privilege to hear the Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett, Prime Minister of Canada, address Denton Massey's Bible Class, Toronto, the evening of Monday, April 20th, could not help but be convinced that "he was born for this hour," the Time of our need, and our nation's Economic and National salvation!

It was no political speech which the Prime Minister made, when, at Winnipeg, he assumed the role of the Leader of his party! In that address he gave himself and all that he possessed to the service of Canada; and we know that Canada will be served, not only in spirit, but with service, for the Prime Minister is not only a Believer in Good, but a Doer as well, having the knowledge and industrial training which understands the business of good government!

EVERY Independent theatreowner has now learned, through the Government Investigation, that the Interests of Independents was the concern of the appointed Commissioner, Mr. Peter White, K.C., that at no time, since they have been in Motion Pictures, has there been such an effort to give the Little Film Fellow a square deal.

The action of our provincial government in its British Film Quota Bill, is another concrete demonstration that the government of Canada is interested, not only in Canada, but in the welfare of the British Empire, economically and from a nationalistic, as well as imperialistic view-point!

Is this "humbug," or is this Trade delivered to Great Britain on a silver platter?



N. L. Nathanson Returns From Florida—Theatre Rumors Galore!



Show Business



(Special to Digest from Winnipeg)

A talking picture version of John Van Druten's successful stage play, "Young Woodley," is being shown in Winnipeg this week at the R.K.O. Winnipeg. It is an all-English picture and is a picture of merit.

The statement has been made that the best British pictures are not shown in Canada. This is not borne out by "Young Woodley," which comes from the studios of the British International Pictures, Limited, at Elstree, in Hertfordshire. Elstree is often referred to as the English Hollywood. The British International Pictures, Limited, were the producers of many notable war films, including "Ypres," "Zeebrugge," "Mons," and "The Battle of Jutland." The same corporation co-operated with producers in India in the making of the Indian film, "Shiraz," which was lately shown in Winnipeg under the auspices of the National Council of Education.

The stage play, "Young Woodley," had a long run in London, where it was the subject of considerable discussion because of its theme, which was a critical analysis of a phase of public school life in England.

The moving picture version does full justice to the play. It is produced with a quiet restraint that is typically British. The episode unwinds itself with all the sincerity of a Galsworthy drama. The casting is excellent and the enunciation of the players, clear and distinct. It abounds with humor and shows many typically British scenes. English public school-life is recreated by beautiful old world cloisters and quadrangles, and by the introduction of cricket matches and other school activities.

A police officer interrupted robbers as they were hauling the safe obtaining \$450 from the office of the Broadway Theatre, Regina. One man was found hiding in the building.

During the past year the Manitoba Board of Moving Picture Censors reviewed 2,103 subjects, comprising 7,108 reels. Of these, 1,848 subjects were passed without change, 56 were rejected and 206 were cut. Seven features were revised and then approved while seven "shorts" were again rejected on appeal. All but 20 subjects were of U. S. origin.

As usual the theatres of Hull, Quebec, were closed on Good Friday although local places of amusement are open Sundays and all other days throughout the year.

Said by police to have been posing as well-to-do guests at one of the city's leading hotels, three young men were taken into custody by city detectives this week, charged with stealing a safe containing nearly \$3,000 in cash, jewelry and securities, from the Rialto Theatre, Winnipeg, Saturday morning.

The three men are William Mason, John M. Martin, and Ernest Ross. Police are withholding the name of a woman, who, they stated, is being held as a material witness in the case. All three pleaded guilty.

The loot stolen, consisted of 72 diamond rings, valued at about \$2,000, a number of valuable securities, and

\$600 in cash. Police have recovered 50 of the rings which are worth \$1,500.

The authorities are also endeavoring to unearth evidence which they believe may link the accused with the burglary at the Starland Theatre, Winnipeg, Sunday morning, in which the safe was forced open and \$765 in cash stolen, together with several thousand dollars worth of securities.

With the arrest, police say they also found in a suite not far from the hotel used by the three, jimmys, hammers and other equipment used by safecrackers.

Observations

(Continued from page 6)

CHARITY performances or those of a philanthropic nature are not to come within the jurisdiction of the Performing Right Society for a collection of fees. The clause governing this phase of public performance is as follows:

"Nothing contained in the Copyright Act, nor in the Act shall be construed to prohibit the performance of any musical works in which copyright subsists, by churches, colleges, schools, or by philanthropic, charitable, or fraternal organizations, provided the performance is given for religious, educational, benevolent, or charitable purposes!"

The government's powers, in connection with the fees involved, is as follows: "The Governor-in-council, on the recommendation of the Minister, is authorized from time to time to revise, reduce, increase or otherwise prescribe the fees, charges or royalties which any such society, association or company may lawfully collect in respect to the issue or grant by it of licenses for the performance of any such works in Canada.

"No such society, association or company shall be entitled to sue for or to collect in any legal proceedings any fees, charges or royalties in respect of licenses, for the performance of any such works in Canada which are not specified in the lists from time to time filed by it at the copyright office as herein provided, nor to sue for nor collect in any legal proceedings any fees, charges or royalties in excess of those specified in the statements so filed by it, or those otherwise prescribed by order of the Governor-in-Council."

* * * *

HERE is an example of protection in its fullest interpretation, and reveals another angle of the consistency of the Government in its "protection" policies!

The Canadian Performing Right Society has been a "thorn in the flesh" of those whom it has sought to bludgeon into subjection. It has been reprimanded in Court for its threatening letters; and the saying "stabbed by its own penard" is here applicable. The Amendment of the Copyright Act is what it has sought. But not in the present form. Eliminating the necessity of registration, which would give it the right to sue, and collect licenses for music it claimed it controlled, without affording the users of such music any information as to its rights, in order that the public might not unknowingly infringe.

Who Tipped Off Motion Picture Daily That There Is a Possibility of "One Large Fine" Under the Combines Act?

Round About the Studios



Norma Shearer, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer star, as she appears in her latest picture, "Strangers May Kiss."

According to advice from the Warner's West Coast studios, "The Four Flusher," starring Edward G. Robinson, will be completed next week. This picture is Robinson's first vehicle since the phenomenally successful "Little Caesar." Kubeck Glasmon and John Bright, two young Chicago newspapermen, wrote "The Four Flusher," which is the story of a professional gambler's rise to power. Alfred E. Green is directing. Among the players are Evelyn Knapp, James Cagney, Boris Karloff, Noel Francis, Margaret Livingston, Mae Madison and Polly Walters.

Priscilla Dean, always an attraction to movie-goers, is said to "steal" outstanding glory in the Big 4 melodrama "Trapped," which marks her re-entry into films. The picture was directed by Bruce Mitchell.

Paul Sloane has launched into the initial stages of preparation for the filming of "The Consolation Marriage" for Radio Pictures. Myles Connolly is associate producer and the screen adaptation is by Humphrey Pearson from the story by Bill Cunningham.

RKO Pathe inaugurated in Constance Bennett's new picture, "Born to Love," a production policy of presenting the strongest possible cast from stars to bits. Even the minor roles in this Ernest Pascal story directed by Paul L. Stein have been filled with prominent stage and screen players.

Spencer Tracy will have the leading role in the aviation comedy, "Ground Hogs," which will be the next picture made by Howard Hughes, for United Artists, Tracy having been borrowed from Fox for the purpose.

As soon as she arrives at the coast from Philadelphia, where she is now playing in "Philip Goes Forth," Madge Evans will be assigned the feminine lead in Ramon Novarro's "The Son of the Rajah."

Dorothy Howell is at present working on two stories for Columbia. She is completing the script on "Lover Come Back," adapted from McCall's magazine story by Helen Topping Miller and "Fifty Fathoms Deep," a spectacular undersea story, which will serve as a vehicle for Richard Cromwell, new Columbia star.

The title of Edward G. Robinson's new Warner Bros. picture has been changed from "The Four Flusher" to "Smart Money." The picture is completed. Evelyn Knapp plays opposite Robinson, and James Cagney also has a prominent role.

When not engaged in working on "The Black Camel," mystery drama being filmed in Honolulu by the Fox Film Corporation, Sally Eilers studies her part for "Bad Girl," her next picture.

Four of the big pictures promised by First National on this season's release schedule have passed through the editing and cutting rooms of the Burbank studio and prints are now being sent to the exchanges. Heading the list is "Chances," the Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., picture in which Rose Hobart plays the feminine lead. Following is "Broad Minded," starring Joe E. Brown and having Ona Munson and Marjorie White in its cast. "Big Business Girl" from which much is expected on account of its new type of heroine has Loretta Young, Frank Albertson and Ricardo Cortez in its cast, and "Party Husband" has for its star Dorothy Mackaill.

Lawrence Tibbett, as soon as he completes his present schedule of concert engagements, will return to the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studio to begin work in a new photoplay. No announcement has yet been made by M-G-M as to the title of Tibbett's new starring vehicle.

Lucien Littlefield and Will Rogers renewed an old association when Littlefield was signed by Fox Films to appear in Rogers' latest starring picture, "Young As You Feel." Several years ago Littlefield played a supporting role in "A Texas Steer," one of Rogers' silent films.

Marie Astaire, petite and pretty singer and dancer of vaudeville and musical comedy fame, makes her two-reel comedy debut with Nat Carr in RKO Pathe's "Night Class," a new fun film in a college campus setting. Associated with Miss Astaire in her initial comedy short are Hooper Atchley, Wade Boteler, Michael Viscaroff, Walter Long and Brooks Benedict. Harry Frazer is directing.

Charlotte Greenwood, the elongated comedian, has been signed for one of the principal feminine roles in "Palmy Days," Eddie Cantor's starring vehicle, which will be Samuel Goldwyn's first 1931 picture for United Artists release.

Billy Gaxton, musical comedy star whose breezy comedy style in "A Connecticut Yankee" and in the stage and screen versions of "Fifty Million Frenchmen," has won him great popularity, is to make another two-reel film for the Vitaphone Corporation. The story is titled "The Silent Partner" and was written by Rupert Hughes. It will be directed by Roy Mack. The supporting cast is headed by Shirley Palmer, Frank McGlynn, Jr., and Roger Gray.

With the signing of J. Jerome Hansen and Dick Rush, Columbia's "The Sky Raiders" went into its last week of production. The film is an exciting and dramatic story of the hazards and adventures of commercial flying. Christy Cabanne is directing with an imposing cast that includes Lloyd Hughes and Marceline Day in the featured roles and Emerson Treacy, Wheeler Oakman, William O'Brien, Ed Le Saint, Ashley Buck, Walter Miller and Kit Guard rounding out the cast.

"Complete Surrender" has been selected as final title for Joan Crawford's new Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer starring film. This is an adaptation of Kenyon Nicholson's stage play, "The Torch Song," and was directed by Harry Beaumont, with a supporting cast including John Mack Brown, Marjorie Rambeau and Neil Hamilton.

Brooks Benedict, remembered as Harold Lloyd's menace in several feature comedies, with a college background again plays a collegiate comic in "Night Class," an RKO Pathe two-reeler of college capers in which Nat Carr is chief mirth-maker and Marie Astaire is the eye-arrester.

Walter Byron will replace Leslie Fenton in "Spent Bullets," the next Richard Barthelmess starring vehicle. He will play The Outsider, one of the five young men who, with the girl Nikki, flit from bar to bar and country to country in post-war Europe.

Roscoe Ates and John Miljan have been added to the cost of the new Marie Dressler-Polly Moran picture, now in production at the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studio. The temporary title of this film is "Politics," and the story is said to deal farcically with underworld doings in a big city.

Stanley Fields has been signed for a part in "Wyoming Wonder" by Fox Films. George O'Brien, Virginia Cherrill, Humphrey Bogart and James Kirkwood will be featured.



Lovely Lilian Bond, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer star, appearing in "Stepping Out."

Canada's Film Rentals Were Much in Evidence at Government Investigation; Sorry to Contradict a Contemporary

BEYOND VICTORY

A Stirring Drama of Daring Men
and Loving Women Purified
by Fate

A Screen Triumph of Exceptional
Charm, as Thrilling as it is
Dramatic.

With

William Boyd, Helen Twelvetrees, James
Gleason, Fred Scott, Russell Gleason, Lew
Cody, Zazu Pitts, Dorothy Burgess,
June Collyer.

A Box Office Attraction
Par Excellence

RKO PATHE

Distributed in Canada by
REGAL FILMS LIMITED

BEYOND VICTORY

**The
Imperial
Eight**

**The
Imperial
Eight**

From All Parts of the Dominion come glowing reports of the splendid business being done by Exhibitors who are showing British International Pictures Limited's series of English Feature Pictures released under the title of "THE IMPERIAL EIGHT." The four features so far released have more than lived up to every promise made for them.

ALREADY RELEASED

"Young Woodley"
"Murder"
"The Middle
Watch"
"The 'W' Plan"

YET TO COME

"Suspense"
"The Man From
Chicago"
"Night Birds"
"The Yellow Mask"

If you have not already booked these box-office money-getters, get busy now. Get in touch with the exchange of Regal Films Limited nearest you. Plenty of prints of all the subjects are on hand and early dates can be given in any part of Canada. There is no guesswork in booking "THE IMPERIAL EIGHT." They have "gone over big" wherever shown.

**The
Imperial
Eight**

**The
Imperial
Eight**